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A. M. D. G.

# OLD IRISH LITANY

OF THE

## Blessed Virgin.

*(Catholic University of Ireland Calendar for 1867-8.)*

THE Rector of the University, having in the year 1862, supplicated our Most Holy Father, Pope Pius IX., that he would graciously attach Indulgences to the following Prayer, or Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is believed to be as old, at least, as the middle of the Eighth Century, and which had been rescued from oblivion, a short time previously, by the late lamented Professor Eugene O'Curry, His Holiness issued the following Brief on the 5th September, 1862:—

[TRANSLATION.]

“ PIUS PP. IX.

“ FOR A PERPETUAL RECORD.

“ Our beloved Son, Monsignor Bartholomew Woodlock, one of our Chamberlains of Honour, and Rector of the Catholic University in the City of Dublin, has lately caused to be laid before Us, a certain Pious Prayer, or Form of Supplication, to the Honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the beginning of which is, in the English tongue—‘O Great Mary! O Mary Greatest!—in the Italian language, ‘O Maria, eccelsa Signora;’ and has also caused it to be set forth to Us, that it was lately recovered from oblivion by one of the Professors of the said University, and that it is the same which used to be recited in the Churches by the Irish

faithful in their primitive language from the most remote period. But, now, Our aforesaid beloved Son has caused Us to be informed that he himself, and very many others, have it extremely at heart that, with the view of increasing more and more, in the minds of Christ's faithful of Ireland, piety and devotion towards the Immaculate Mother of God, We should vouchsafe, of Our Apostolic favour, to unlock the heavenly treasures of Indulgences for the faithful who shall recite that prayer. We, who regard with fatherly charity, and *special good will*, all Christ's faithful of Ireland, from whom We have always had peculiar proofs of dutiful service towards this Holy See, have been pleased to meet the prayers they have addressed to Us, and to grant Indulgence as below.

“Wherefore, unto all and singular the faithful of Christ of either sex, now or temporarily residing in Ireland, being at least contrite in heart, who shall on any day devoutly recite the aforesaid Prayer, translated into whatsoever language, provided only the version be faithful, whereof We have ordered a copy, written in the English and Italian languages, to be kept in the Registry of the Briefs of Our Secretary's Office,

“We, relying on the mercy of the Almighty God, and by the authority of His Apostles, the Blessed Peter and Paul, do remit, in the wonted form of the Church, on the day whereon they shall do this, One Hundred Days from

penances enjoined, or otherwise in what manner soever due, of which relaxations of penances, We grant also in the Lord, the application, by way of suffrage, to the souls of Christ's faithful, who shall have departed from this life united in charity to God. Anything making to the contrary notwithstanding. These presents to hold to all future times.

“ And We will have precisely the same confidence which would be accorded to these presents, if they were exhibited or shown, to be accorded to translations or copies, even printed, of the present Letters, inscribed by the hand of some public notary, and furnished with the seal of a person placed in an ecclesiastical dignity.

“ Given in Rome, at St. Peter's, under the Ring of the Fisherman, 5th day of September, 1862, in the 17th year of Our Pontificate.

✠ “ B. CARD. BARBERINI.”

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*Concordat cum Originali.*

✠ E. MCCABE,

VIC. CAP.

Of this Litany a learned and venerable Father, who has long been Professor of the Sacred Sciences in the Grand Séminaire at Montauban in France, thus writes :—

“Montauban, 3 Fevrier, 1879.

“Les antiques Litanies de la catholique Érin m'ont vivement intéressé: voilà encore une des mille réponses aux ineptes sottises de l'hérésie. (*Such as the theory of St. Patrick's being a Protestant, which is here alluded to.*)

“Ce monument est d'un grand prix. Nous en avons fait faire la traduction française: elle sera utile à la piété des fidèles, et trèsopportune dans la controverse *De cultu sanctorum.*

“DAMASE PUJOL, S.J.”

F. Whyte also writes :—

“New York, 19th Feb., 1879.

“This litany disposes well of the theory as to the early Protestantism of Ireland.

“When you send me a copy of the Gaelic original of the litany, I will take means to have it widely circulated. You must know, that at this present moment we have in New York several large classes organised for the purpose of preserving and learning and spreading, far as possible, the old Irish tongue. These classes are taught by competent men. I mean to have the litany printed in Gaelic, and placed before these classes. It will thus be more acceptable and better appreciated.

“RICHARD J. WHYTE, S.J.”

## THE ORIGINAL IRISH.

- Δ Μύσιρε τόρη,
- Δ Μύσιρε ιρ τό ρονα Μύσιριβ,
- Δ Ρο τόρη ηα τ-βαη,
- Δ Ριζάιη ηα η-αινζελ,
- Δ Βαντιζερηνα ινη ηιμη,
- Δ Βέν λάν οσυρ βορ-λάν ο ριαίτιν ιη γριητιτα ηόιτη,
- Δ Βενοαέτα οσυρ η ριο-βενοαέτα,
- Δ Μάταδιη ηα Σλόιρε τυτάινε,
- Δ Μάταδιη ηα ή-eclαιρε ηεπόνα οσυρ ταλίμανονα,
- Δ Μάταδιη ηα ηάινε οσυρ ινη Ιοζδιό,
- Δ Μάταδιη ηα γολλη βοριοηναι,
- Δ Ονοιη ινη ετεοιη,
- Δ Σούμαρηθα ηα γετίνη,
- Δ Όρηυρ ηιμη,
- Δ Σούμηρ ηίρηαι,
- Δ Λερα ηα ηάινε οσυρ ηα τηρόσαιρη,
- Δ Τέμπραιλ ηα ηιαναέτα,
- Δ Μάιη ηα η-οξ,
- Δ Βαντιζερηνα ηα ηιπιυν,
- Δ Τόραιη ηα λυθέροιτ,
- Δ Σλαναν ηα ρεκκαό,
- Δ Ηιζε ηα η-αηηανο,
- Δ Μάταδιη ηα η-οιλλιηέτα,
- Δ Σίρη ηα ηόιρηη,
- Δ Σούμοιγηνα ηα τηραδξ,
- Δ Ρέολα ηα ταρη,
- Δ Κυμαλ Όέ,
- Δ Μάταδιη Σηίρη,
- Δ Διηηηαραι ιη ηοιηηοεό,
- Δ Κρυτάς ηαρη ηοιηη,
- Δ Σόηηαι ηαρη έρη,

Δ Τοξικόε ταρι ριειη,  
Δ Όισοι αιτιγγε Ευα,  
Δ Ατηνιγεο ηα βεταν,  
Δ Μάιρε ηα μ-βανγαλ,  
Δ Σενο ηα η-όξ,  
Δ Λιβάνιοιτ φοη-ιατα,  
Δ Φίη τορυη γλαγγαιγέ,  
Δ Ματαη Όε,  
Δ Όιξ ριεταιη,  
Δ Όιξ ποεμ,  
Δ Όιξ έριεθαη,  
Δ Όιξ ριοέηαιο,  
Δ Όιξ ζενηναιοε,  
Δ Τεμπαη Όε θι,  
Δ Ριξ-ριιιοε ιη ηιξ ριεταιη,  
Δ Σάνεταιη ιη γριηματα ηοιη,  
Δ Όιξ νο πειη ιερε,  
Δ Σετεη ριεθι Λεβάη,  
Δ Συρριγη ριεθι Σιοη,  
Δ Ρόη ζοριαρναι θ-ρεηηαη ιασοη,  
Δ Τοιητεη ταρι ολα ζηρανο,  
Δ Βλαιτηαιιγέτεη ταρι ηαιη,  
Δ Μειη-θρεταιη ζιόρναι,  
Δ Σολη Ηαραηε,  
Δ Ζιόηη ιερυηαλεη,  
Δ Μαιη ιη θομαιη,  
Δ Σοζενέη ιη ροραιη ζηηταιοε,  
Δ Ριξαη ιη βετα,  
Δ Αηραο ηιηε,  
Ειρη γαιοε ηα μ-βοέτ, ηα ηιηιηηη ζιέ οηα  
Δαηη οηηαθαι ηα τηηαθ.

Θερταρι δη *n-ουτηδαςτ* ασαρ δη *n-οστραδα*  
τριεμιτρα 1 θ-ριαδαναιρε *in ouileman*, οιη πι *ριν*

γινο τέον αρη η-εγτεέτ τρε ηαρη η-ορούαιηι-  
λινο.

Α θαντιζερηνά ζυμαάτας ηιόνε ασαρη ταλήαν  
νίλεζ αρη ειπτα ασαρη αρη ρεροαι.

Σηριη αρη ειλη ασαρη αρη σορβαιό.

Τόσαιθη ηα τυιτπεοα ηα η-νειβλεν ασαρη ηα  
σενγαλται, ταιέπιζη ηα θοερία, λεγγαίζ τρε-  
μετρα τηειγρα αρη η-νοβέρ ασαρη αρη η-νυαλαά. Τινοναίσσ θυιηη, τριεμετρα βλαάα ασυρ ζυμ-  
ναίζε ηα γοζηίη ασαρη ηα γυαλαά, γετηαιίζ  
θυιηη ηη τηριετεμαιη οτ ζυιόθιη ασαρη οτ ιμριοιη,  
ηαά αρη λεισ ηατ αιη τηροαιρε ι σρειχη ηι αρη  
ηαιητιη, ηα λεισ αρη η-αηηαη ηο θοεριαά, ασαρη  
ηαρη γειη ζυευτ γέν ζαιρέ ηαρη ηο ζομαιηι.

Διληιτ ασαρη γυιυομιτη θεόρ τυρα, αη ηοεη  
θυιηη, τηιιατ ηορι ιμριόη αρη έ-θεη ηας, εόηοη,  
αρη ήηη Σηριητ ηας Θέ ήη, ειρη αη-νίτηη ηια οη  
ή-ηιηιη ζυμγαίθη ασαρη ηιηριήζη. Ασυρ ζυιηιζ  
θυιηη οη ηα η-νύη ηο ηάζθαηη ηιη ηαη  
ηιηγυη ηασαρη ηογυη ηαρη ηηιηιη ηεροαιη ασυρ  
ειηταιη, ασαρη ηο ηάζθαηη ηαηρηη θεόρ τηιια  
τ-ιμριοερηη ηιοη ηιητηιεη ηα ηάζθαηη ηεροαιη τηιια  
ηιηθη ηα η-θεέαη ι ηιηηηηη ηοεη ασαρη  
ηοεη οζη ηη ηοηηαιη; ηο-θαιηηηηηη, ηόρη ηιητηεθ-  
ηη, ηη ηεηηηηη. Amen.

At the request of Religious Communities desirous of having this venerable litany sung, a Latin version has been prepared—that language being, in their judgment, more readily susceptible of musical adaptation.

### LATIN VERSION

Maria magna,  
 Maria inter Marias maxima,  
 Maxima in mulieribus,  
 Regina Angelorum,  
 Domina cœlorum,  
 Mulier plena Spiritus Sancti gratia,  
 Beata et beatissima,  
 Mater æternæ gloriæ,  
 Mater Ecclesiæ cœlestis et terrestris,  
 Mater amoris et clementiæ,  
 Mater lucis aureæ,  
 Decus cœli,  
 Proenuntia pacis,  
 Janua cœli,  
 Arca aurea,  
 Throne amoris et misericordiæ,  
 Sacrarium Deitatis,  
 Decor virginum,  
 Domina tribuum,  
 Fons hortorum,  
 Purgatio delictorum,

**Ablutio animarum,**  
**Mater orphanorum,**  
**Nutrix lactentium,**  
**Refugium miserorum,**  
**Stella maris,**  
**Ancilla Dei,**  
**Mater Christi,**  
**Sedes Divinitatis,**  
**Formosa ut columba,**  
**Pulchra ut luna,**  
**Electa ut Sol,**  
**Deletio ignominiæ Evæ,**  
**Reparatio vitæ,**  
**Perfectio mulierum,**  
**Primaria inter virgines,**  
**Horte concluse,**  
**Fons signate,**  
**Mater Dei,**  
**Virgo perpetua,**  
**Virgo sancta,**  
**Virgo prudens,**  
**Virgo benigna,**  
**Virgo casta,**  
**Templum Dei viventis,**  
**Solum regis æterni,**  
**Habitaculum Spiritus Sancti,**  
**Virgo de radice Jesse,**  
**Cedre Libani,**  
**Cypresse Montis Sion,**  
**Rosa purpurea terræ Jacob,**  
**Ferax ut oliva,**  
**Florens ut palma,**  
**Puerpera inclyta,**

Lux Nazáreth,  
Gloria Jerusalem,  
Ornamentum mundi,  
Nobilissima in Christi populo,  
Regina vitæ,  
Scala cœli.

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J. M. J.

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